



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

*Introduced by: Pryor, Shackelford, Bartlett, Harris,
Hatcher, Jackson, Pack, Porter, Smith V, Summers*

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION celebrating February as Black
2 History Month.

3 *Whereas, Black history has been celebrated by Americans*
4 *each year since 1926, first as Negro History Week and later as*
5 *Black History Month;*

6 *Whereas, Blacks have been in America since colonial times,*
7 *but it was not until the 20th century that they were represented*
8 *in history books;*

9 *Whereas, The celebration of Black History Month and the*
10 *study of Black history came into being through the efforts of Dr.*
11 *Carter G. Woodson;*

12 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson's parents were former slaves, and he*

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1 *spent his childhood working in the West Virginia coal mines;*

2 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson enrolled in high school at age 20,*
3 *graduated within two years, and went on to earn a Ph.D. from*
4 *Harvard University;*

5 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson was disturbed to find that history*
6 *books largely ignored the Black American population and*
7 *mentioned Blacks only in ways that reflected the inferior social*
8 *position they were assigned at the time;*

9 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson began the task of writing Black*
10 *Americans into the nation's history;*

11 *Whereas, Through the efforts of Dr. Woodson, several*
12 *organizations were established as a way to bring national*
13 *attention to the contributions of Black people throughout*
14 *American history, including the Association for the Study of*
15 *Negro Life and History, founded in 1915 (now known as the*
16 *Association for the Study of African American Life and*
17 *History), the Journal of Negro History (now known as the*
18 *Journal of African American History), and, in 1926, the*
19 *establishment of Negro History Week;*

20 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February*
21 *for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two*
22 *men who greatly influenced the Black American population:*
23 *Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln;*

24 *Whereas, Black History Month, celebrated in February,*
25 *acknowledges the achievements of Blacks in the military, arts,*
26 *civil rights, education, entertainment, history, law, literature,*
27 *medicine, music, politics, science, sports, and other areas;*

28 *Whereas, The goal of Black History Month is to bridge the*
29 *gap created by American history's failure to accurately*
30 *acknowledge, portray, and record the contributions and*
31 *inventions of Blacks; and*

32 *Whereas, Black Americans reflect a legacy of courage and*
33 *dedication that has helped to guide our nation's success and*
34 *prosperity: Therefore,*



1 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

3 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly
4 acknowledges the many contributions and accomplishments of
5 Black Americans throughout the history of the United States
6 and Indiana.

7 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly urges
8 entities and organizations to celebrate Black History Month.

